

BANDYUP PRISON — POLICE OFFICER INVOLVEMENT

8852. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Police

- (1) Have any police officers been involved in programmes at Bandyup prison at any time in the last six months?
- (2) If so, what were those programmes and why were police involved?
- (3) What was the rank and position of any police officers involved?
- (4) Has the involvement in those programmes been halted for any reason and if so, why?
- (5) Will any such involvement be recommenced in the near future and if so, when, what will the allocation of officers be, and where will they be allocated from?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1) Yes. Two school visits were organised by a WA Police Officer involving at risk students who visited Bandyup Prison.
- (2) Police involvement included the liaison between the schools and the prison, providing briefing and debriefing and follow up on re offending behaviour of participants. The reason is to expose recidivist offenders to the consequences of an offending lifestyle.
- (3) A First Class Constable from the Midland PCYC.
- (4) Yes, the program has been suspended due to the police officer position being converted to a centre manager position and pending a review of the program.
- (5) Before committing to any future program, further investigation of the benefits is required. WA Police is currently awaiting advice from Department of Corrective Services on this program. There has also been limited evaluation and measurement regarding recidivism of offending in relation to this program. The young people that attended have been selected by schools and were not necessarily in an offender cohort. Research has suggested some limitations of this type of 'shock' program, with international studies showing an increase in recidivism of indigenous participants.